Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme is to establish a provident fund for the general public. Fulfilment of the objective of the schemes is an ongoing process.

The gross annual collections under the Scheme have increased from Rs.10747 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 16484 crore in 2004-05 (Provisional). The balances under the Scheme amount to Rs. 83461 crore as on 31.03.2005 (Provisional). The information of account holders, income-wise and sector-wise is however, not maintained. Government has constantly been reviewing the scheme to make it investor friendly.

Expenditure on project under social sector

†*339. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to increase the expenditure on projects under social sector in the country;

(b) if so, total amount spent on these projects during the current year and the extent to which this amount exceeds the amount spent during the last year; and

(c) the amount likely to be increased for this purpose during the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Social Sector is given priority while finalizing the Plan outlays for the Central Ministries as well as Central Assistance to State Governments. The Plan outlays of the Ministries/ Departments implementing Social Sector Schemes/Projects as well as the Central Assistance for Social Sector Projects given to the State Governments for the Annual Plan 2004-05 (Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates) and the Budget Estimates for the current year, *i.e.* 2005-06) are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). An assessment of the likely amount to be allocated for the Social Sector during the year 2006-07 is not available.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Plan outlays for the period 2004-2005 *and* 2005-2006

(Rs. in crore)

Ministry/Department	2004-05		2005-06
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Budget Estimates
1	2	3	4
Health	1800.00	2211.34	2908.00
AYUSH	181.00	205.50	350.00
Family Welfare	5500.00	5300.00	6424.00
Elementary Education and Literacy	6000.00	8000.00	12531.76
Secondary Education and Higher Edcuation	2225.00	2225.71	2712.00
Women and Child Development	2400.00	2400.00	3875.29
Labour and Employment	181.00	174.73	232.48
Rural Development	11437.40	13866.40	18334.00
Drinking Water Supply	3300.00	3300.00	4750.00
Social Justice and Empowerment	1492.00	1350.00	1533.70
Tribal Affairs	319.00	242.45	391.81
Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation**	4570.40	6114.17	7246.95
Central Assistance for States and Union Territories Plans			
Slum Development	341.00	643.00	1989.62*
Tribal Sub Plan	497.00	497.00	727.01
Grants under Article 275(i)-Tribal Development	330.00	330.00	380.00
Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	2766.00	2391.00	—
National Social Assistance Programme	676.00	1055.00	1182.58

1	2	3	4
(NSAP) (including Annapurna) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)	141.00	—	162.97

*Urban Renewal Sub-Mission for Slum Development.

**Includes Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

Source: Expenditure Budget, 2005-2006, Volume 1 (February, 2005).

Waterway between Hoogly and Allahabad

*340. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce waterways for transportation of goods between Hoogly and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad has already been declared as a National Waterway and basic infrastructural facilities such as navigational channel, terminals navigational aids etc. are being provided for facilitating inland water transport, mainly for goods transportation. A fixed schedule cargo transportation service is also being operated between Haldia and Patna. Cargo transportation also takes place between Patna and Allahabad occasionally as adequate depth is not available throughout the year.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Rural industries in North-Eastern Region

2422. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minsiter of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government for development and promotion of rural industries in the North-Eastern Region;